AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

1-20. Canceled.

21. (Currently Amended) A device comprising a catheter, a gripper, and a leaflet fastener applicator, wherein the fastener applicator and the gripper extend from separate shafts that extend through the catheter, the gripper having at least one grasper that moves angularly relative to the shaft, wherein the grasper frictionally secures at least one leaflet in a secure position between the grasper and the shaft.

22-27. Canceled.

28. (Withdrawn) A heart valve gripper/fastener applicator comprising a gripper and a fastener applicator wherein said gripper and said fastener applicator extend from a single shaft.

29-35. Canceled.

36. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 21 wherein said catheter has a proximal end, a distal end and suitable dimensions for insertion into a heart, the leaflet fastener applicator passing through the catheter such that an actuating element projects from the proximal end of the catheter while a fastener projects from the distal end of the catheter.

37. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 21 wherein the gripper and the fastener applicator extend simultaneously through the catheter.

38. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 21 further comprising a second catheter, wherein the gripper extends through a first catheter and the fastener applicator extends through the second catheter.

39. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 21 wherein the gripper further comprises ~~a grasper and~~ a plunger, wherein the plunger can be moved along one of the separate shafts to push leaflets toward the ~~plunger~~ grasper.

40. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 39 wherein the plunger comprises arms to push the leaflets towards the grasper.

41. (Withdrawn) The device of claim 39 wherein the plunger comprises a balloon plunger which is inflated to guide the leaflets to the grasper.

42. (Withdrawn) The device of claim 21 wherein the gripper comprises two opposing jaws.

43. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 21 wherein the fastener applicator comprises two opposing jaws, one of the jaws having a site for holding a tack, and the second of the jaws having a site for holding a cap.

44. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 43 wherein the jaw having a site for holding the tack further comprises a slot ,wherein the tack can be shifted to a position opposite the site for holding the cap.

45. (Withdrawn) The device of claim 21 wherein the fastener applicator comprises a ring.

46. (Withdrawn) The device of claim 45 wherein the ring is a crimp ring.

47. (Withdrawn) The device of claim 45 wherein the ring is a spring loaded ring.

48. (Withdrawn) The device of claim 45 wherein the ring comprises two spring loaded rings.

49. (Withdrawn) The device of claim 21 wherein the fastener applicator comprises a curved needle in a slot at the tip of one of the separate shafts.

50. (Withdrawn) The device of claim 49 wherein the curved needle has suture attached to the needle such that pulling the suture rotates the needle in the slot.

51. (New) A device comprising a catheter, a gripper, and a leaflet fastener applicator, wherein the fastener applicator and the gripper extend from separate shafts that extend through the catheter, the leaflet fastener applicator comprising first and second opposing jaws, the first jaw having a site for holding a tack and the second jaw having a site for holding a cap, the first jaw further comprising a track, wherein the tack can be slidably positioned along the track from a first position to a second position opposite the site for holding the cap.

52. (New) A device comprising a catheter, a gripper, and a leaflet fastener applicator, wherein the leaflet fastener applicator and the gripper extend from separate shafts that extend through the catheter, the leaflet fastener applicator comprising first and second opposing jaws, the first jaw having a site for holding a tack and the second jaw having a site for holding a cap, the gripper having at least one grasper that moves angularly relative to the shaft, wherein the grasper frictionally secures at least one leaflet in a secure position between the grasper and the shaft.

53.(New) The device of claim 44 wherein the tack can be slidably positioned within the slot to a position opposite the site for holding the cap.